

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Kansas
COUNTY:	Marion
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	

15-1790-008

1. NAME

COMMON:

Harvey House (preferred name)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Clifton Hotel

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

204 West Third

CITY OR TOWN:

Florence

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

No. 4 Garner Shriver

STATE

Kansas 66851

CODE

20

COUNTY:

Marion

CODE

115

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Florence Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Florence

STATE:

Kansas 66851

CODE

20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

Marion County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:

Marion

STATE:

Kansas 66861

CODE

20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

NONE

DATE OF SURVEY:

☐ Federal☐ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☒ Altered ☐ Unaltered

(Check One)

☒ Moved ☐ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Part of the first Fred Harvey House which stood south of the Santa Fe railroad tracks on Florence's Main street until the early 1900's is now situated north of the tracks at the southwest corner of Third and Marion. The existing structure is said to have been the original part of the Clifton Hotel to which Harvey made a major addition in 1879. After the addition the hotel measured 130 feet long and 30 feet wide and had a three-story tower above the main entrance.

The existing rectangular two-story building measures approximately 50 feet long and 30 feet wide and is covered with white-painted horizontal lap siding. Roofed porches run the full length of the east front and west facade. Five circular columns support the roof of the front porch and five square columns support that of the back porch. The present front porch roof slopes downward from the back; originally it was a flat roof which served as a second floor porch or balcony.

The roof has recently been resingled with gray composition shingles. There are three red brick chimneys on the ridge line, one at the north end and two rather closely spaced at the south. The eaves overhang the building three to four feet and are supported by large frame brackets.

A small square, lattice-walled storage area has been added at the southwest corner of the building.

The six windows on the second story front are more or less evenly spaced and the five windows and one door on the first floor are directly in line with the second story openings. The west side has five unevenly spaced windows on the second floor and three doors and two windows on the first floor. Windows on the south end are evenly spaced with three on each floor. On the north there are three on the second floor and two on the first. All windows are of the double-hung type and are framed by wide flat trim painted white.

There is some disagreement as to which existing end, if either, was an original end of the hotel, but there is no argument about this building having once been part of the Harvey House. The exterior of the Vernacular style structure except for the changes outlined above is in agreement with the original appearance.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1876

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric☐ Historic☐ Agriculture☐ Architecture☐ Art☒ Commerce☐ Communications☐ Conservation☐ Education☐ Engineering☐ Industry☐ Invention☐ Landscape☐ Architecture☐ Literature☐ Military☐ Music☐ Political☐ Religion Phi-
losophy☐ Science☐ Sculpture☐ Social Human-
itarian☐ Theater☐ Transportation☐ Urban Planning☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The hotel which later became the Fred Harvey House at Florence was erected in the spring of 1876 to serve passengers on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. The Santa Fe line had been completed from Topeka to Florence in May, 1871, but it was not until March, 1876, that Florence was established as a permanent eating station for passengers. Ben Putnam of Florence contracted with the railroad to establish a hotel and eating house. He had planned to build a new hotel on railroad property but found himself in financial problems. On April 21 the Marion County Record announced that four local men--Pike, Battey, Barker and Robinson--had purchased the existing eating house and materials for the new one just as construction of the latter was beginning. By May 5 the framework on the building had been completed; in another month the plastering was finished and the painters were almost ready to start. The first meal in the new structure was served toward the end of June.

For the next year and a half the railroad house, which was known as the Clifton Hotel, was operated by local people. In December, 1877, Fred Harvey visited Florence to inspect the hotel at the suggestion of Supt. C. F. Morse of the Santa Fe who desired to see better accommodations established for railroad passengers. Harvey had worked for the Hannibal and St. Joseph and the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroads prior to 1875 when he decided to go into the restaurant business. Irritated by the filthy eating houses and terrible food served to railroad passengers and crews, he opened eating houses together with a partner, Jeff Rice, at Hugo, Colorado, and Wallace, Kansas, on the Union Pacific. The partnership ended after a few months when Harvey decided Rice didn't measure up to his standards. He tried unsuccessfully to interest the Burlington in a co-operative arrangement to provide good food for travelers. But the Santa Fe was interested and early in 1876 he acquired the lunchroom at the Topeka depot. Service and food were dramatically improved, and both Harvey and the Santa Fe desired to see his operations expanded. Hence his trip to Florence in 1877 to inspect the Clifton Hotel.

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1.

8. Harvey paid the owners \$4,275 for the building and \$1,000 for the furnishings. A formal contract between the Santa Fe Railroad and Fred Harvey was signed January 1, 1878, stating that the railroad would stop its mainline passenger trains for two meals a day in Florence. There was also a verbal agreement that the railroad would purchase the hotel from Harvey as soon as its financial situation improved. This the railroad subsequently did.

The hotel was redecorated inside and out, and two large fountains were placed at the front walk entrance. Mrs. Harvey selected walnut furniture, fine Irish linens and English silverware to furnish the hotel and restaurant. Because of increased patronage, plans were made in April, 1879, to build a 40-foot extension onto the main building. This work was completed by August, at which time the Florence Herald announced that this "is now the largest of the railroad hotels and is the best."

On March 31, 1900, the last train passengers were served in the Harvey House; the Harvey operations were transferred to Newton. The hotel soon closed and over the years the various sections were removed and relocated. The main part of the hotel was moved and used as a rooming house until it was purchased by the Florence Historical Society on April 1, 1971. Work began on its restoration and although not totally completed, it was opened as a museum on September 6, 1971. Part of the building resembles the old Harvey dining rooms, and rooms upstairs display items relating to the town's early years.

This hotel, which was the first Harvey House to provide sleeping facilities, was the first of a chain of Harvey House hotel-restaurants throughout the west which revolutionized railroad eating and sleeping accommodations. Harvey's insistence upon cleanliness, good food and neat, young waitresses made railroad travel in the west more pleasurable.

9. "The Harvey System," The Santa Fe Employee's Magazine, v. 1, no. 8 (July, 1907), pp. 271-275.
"Harvey Tamed the West With Good Food, Pretty Girls," Topeka Capital, December 9, 1951.
Henderson, James David, Meals By Fred Harvey (Fort Worth, Texas, Texas Christian University Press, 1969), pp. 10-12, 17, 40, 44.

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2.

9. Holbrook, Stewart H., The Story of American Railroads (New York, Crown Publishers, 1947), pp. 214, 215.
- "How Fame Has Been Won For the Harvey Service By Devotion To a Business Principle," The Santa Fe Magazine, v. 10, no. 3 (Feb., 1916), pp. 33-36.
- Lyons, Margaret E., "Fashionable Clifton House Was First of Fred Harvey Hotels on Santa Fe Route," Wichita Eagle Magazine (May 8, 1955).
- Marion County Record (Marion), March 17, 1876-October 20, 1876.
- Marshall, James, Santa Fe--the Railroad That Built an Empire (New York, Random House, 1945), pp. 97-99.
- "Restaurateur's First Harvey House Becomes a Museum For Florence," Wichita Eagle and Beacon, May 27, 1972.
- "Santa Fe's Agency At Florence," The Santa Fe Magazine, v. 55, no. 6 (May, 1962), pp. 30, 31.
- Van Meter, Sondra, Marion County, Kansas, Past and Present (Hillsboro, Kan., M. B. Publishing House, 1972), pp. 40, 144, 152, 154, 159.
- Waters, L. L., Steel Trails to Santa Fe (Lawrence, Kan., University of Kansas Press, 1950), pp. 261-268.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Beebe, Lucius, "Purveyor To the West," American Heritage, v. 18, no. 2 (Feb., 1967), pp. 28-31, 99-102.

"First Harvey Hotel Was Located Here To Serve Rail Travelers," Florence Bulletin, June 5, 1947.

"The First Harvey House," (Florence, Kan., Florence Historical Society, n. d.).

Florence Herald, December 8, 1876-August 23, 1879.

"Fred Harvey Museum Brings Back the Past," El Dorado Times, September 7, 1972.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds		LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		38° 14' 24"	96° 55' 41"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <u>Richard Pankratz, Planner</u>		
ORGANIZATION <u>Kansas State Historical Society</u>	DATE <u>April 15, 1973</u>	
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>120 West Tenth Street</u>		
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Topeka</u>	STATE <u>Kansas 66612</u>	CODE <u>20</u>

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name Nyle H. Miller

Nyle H. Miller

Title Exec. Dir., Kans. State Hist. Soc.

Date June 12, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

